

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 04149 020745Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
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R 011523Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8318

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GH
SUBJ: STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT UNIVERSITIES

1. IN A MAY 26 LETTER TO ACHEAMPONG, FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF GHANA (LEGON) REITERATED REFUSAL TO RETURN TO CAMPUS OR SIT FOR EXAMINATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, STUDENTS SAID THEY WOULD NOT ENTER RESIDENCES OR WRITE EXAMINATIONS "UNTIL AND UNLESS ALL STUDENTS AT HOME, IN HOSPITALS AND IN JAIL HAVE BEEN CALLED BACK INTO RESIDENCE." IN ADDITION, STUDENTS SUPPORTED REASON UNDERLYING EARLIER DEMONSTRATIONS -- OPPOSITION TO UNION GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM IN HIGH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AND ACCUSATIONS OF ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT "WHICH HAS LED TO THE PRESENT HIGH COST OF LIVING AND GENERAL DEGRADATION IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE AVERAGE GHANAIAAN." COPIES OF LETTER WERE SENT TO UNIVERSITY OFFICERS; STUDENT GROUPS AT LEGON, KUMASI AND CAPE COAST: AND TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ACCRA.

2. COMMENT: PERHAPS CONSIDERING IT HAD MOVED TOO HASTILY, GOG AFTER CLOSING UNIVERSITIES MAY 13 TEN OFFERED TO LET MEDICAL AND FINAL YEAR STUDNETS COME BACK FOR EXAMINATIONS. HOWEVER, STUDENTS DID NOT BITE AND HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM CAMPUS. FINAL YEAR STUDENTS' STAND SUGGESTS CONFRONTATION WILL NOT BE RESOLVED IN NEAR
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FUTURE.

3. IN MAY 26 LETTER, STUDENTS ALSO PROTESTED ARREST LAST WEEK OF SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT K.M. JONES QUARTEY, WHO WAS PICKED UP BY POLICE IN EARLY MORNING HOURS FOR PASTING ANTI-REGIME POSTERS ON WALLS OF MAKOLA MARKET IN DOWNTOWN ACCRA AND CHARGED WITH

SEDITION. DESCRIBING JONES QUARTEY AS AN "INNOCENT BOY WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS MERELY TOHAVE DISAGREED WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON NATIONAL ISSUES," STUDENTS CHALLENGED GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH THE CHARGES HE WAS POSTING WHEN ARRESTED.

4. JONES QUARTEY, BORN IN ACCRA OF GHANAIAAN FATHER, HAS DUAL GHANAIAAN/US NATIONALITY. HIS MOTHER, A US CIT AND TEACHER AT LEGON WHO IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, DISCUSSED HIS ARREST WITH US MAY 31 BUT ASKED FOR NO ASSISTANCE. SHE RECONGNIZES THAT HER SON IS REGARDED BY GOG AS GHANAIAAN CITIZEN AND IS WORKING QUIETLY THROUGH WELL-CONNECTED FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR HIS EARLY RELEASE.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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